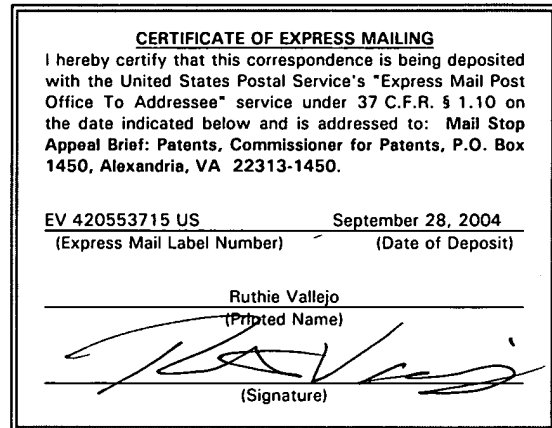


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Arthur W. CHAFFEE
Title: INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO TRACKING SYSTEM AND METHOD
Appl. No.: 09/410,825
Filing Date: 1 October 1999
Examiner: N. SUBRAMANIAN
Art Unit: 3624



APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR 1.192(a)

Mail Stop: Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant hereby appeals the Final Rejection issued 21 May 2004.

1. Real Party in Interest

The present application is assigned to Realnetworth.com, Inc. of Del Mar, California.

2. Related Appeals and Interferences

There are no related appeals or interferences.

3. Status of claims

The Final Rejection addressed claims 71-140, 152 and 153. All rejections are appealed.

4. Status of Amendments

No amendments have been made subsequent to the rejection that is appealed here.

5. Summary of the Invention

A. Overview of the claimed invention

The claimed invention is based around a unique concept of how to provide useful financial information about an investment portfolio. What distinguishes the invention from other known investment portfolio systems is that it reports the overall financial status of an individual's investment portfolio as though the investment portfolio is a business enterprise. To that end, the system calculates the current value of the portfolio's holdings ("assets"), and also calculates the current value of all obligations ("liabilities") of the portfolio, including those that already exist and those that would result if the holdings were liquidated at current prices. Determination of these values yields the current, actual net worth ("equity") of the portfolio based on current asset prices. All of this information is integrated into a single report that has a balance sheet-type format, allowing the current values of the portfolio's net worth and its assets and liabilities to be viewed at a glance.

Figure 8 provides a good illustration of how the claimed invention as a whole is presented to and experienced by a user. Figure 8 shows the main report that is

presented to the user. The main report, titled Financial Position Report, includes an Assets section, a Liabilities & Equity section, and a Profit /Loss Activity ("performance") section. The dollar quantities ("balances") shown in this report are calculated from data representing the transactions made in the portfolio. In the upper half of the report, the assets of the portfolio (see ref. 202-205), whose values are calculated using current (i.e., market) prices, are balanced against the liabilities of the portfolio (see ref. 216-219) such as the amount of borrowed money ("margin") used to buy those assets, the amount of interest owed on that borrowed money ("margin interest"), and taxes that would be owed on net gains/losses that are calculated using current prices (such as ordinary income taxes and capital gains taxes). Subtracting the current value of liabilities from the current value of assets yields the current actual net worth (see ref. 220) of the portfolio at current prices. In the bottom half of the report, the performance of the portfolio during a selected period of time is presented in the form of balances representing profits and losses during that period (see ref. 206-215). Throughout the report, hyperlinks (shown as gray text in Figure 8) enable the user to navigate from balances shown in this main report to detailed reports showing the calculations or activities underlying those balances. (See also p. 10, lines 9-15).

The report of Figure 8 and its associated reports are generated from transaction data records representing the transactions made in the portfolio, and from data indicating current market prices. The many formulas used in calculating this information are provided in Appendix B of the application, with reference to the sample transaction data and corresponding balances provided in Appendix A of the application.

To the best of applicant's knowledge, no prior investment portfolio system provides the current actual net worth of the portfolio based on current prices, or enables the investor to view a summary of the portfolio's current asset, liability and net worth values in a single glance using a balance sheet-type report or any other type of report. As explained in the application at pages 2-3:

In general, the investment portfolio tracking systems that are currently available provide only the basic information about investments. For example, most systems are available to provide a gross rate of return on a stock investment based on that stock's current price and the purchase price, but they do not take into account other factors that are relevant in computing a more representative rate of return, e.g., the holding period, the commissions that were paid, the amount of cash that was invested for that investment, the tax liability if that investment was closed out, etc.

Therefore, investors are currently unable to track their investment portfolio in a meaningful and useful way. Moreover, if they have multiple accounts, they are unable to track the performance of their investments collectively, unless they undergo the cumbersome process of entering their investment transactions into a software or web site database. Even so, they would still be unclear about the true collective performance of their investment portfolios, because they would receive only the basic performance information which does not take into account all of the factors that are necessary to give a meaningful rate of return on the money invested.

There currently is no standardization of accounting and financial presentation of investment portfolios, which gives pertinent, easy to understand information to investors. Further, there currently is no financial service or software that tracks the performance and current real net worth of a portfolio of investments after commissions, other costs, margin interest and taxes. An investor desiring such information needs to perform the analysis using a spreadsheet, but this way of generating tracking investments is prone to errors, time consuming, and virtually impossible to do for an extended period of time.

B. Detailed review of the independent claims

Independent claim 71 is a method claim that describes tasks relating to the generation and presentation of reports such as the one shown in Figure 8.

Independent claim 152 is an apparatus claim reciting features analogous to those of claim 71. The following discussion explains the claimed invention in more detail through reference to the elements of claim 71.

71. A computer implemented method of producing a financial position report for an investment portfolio, comprising:

obtaining single entry transaction data records for individual transactions of the investment portfolio;

Figure 7a shows an example of a user interface through which a user may enter transaction data records. As seen from the figure, these records provide simple information characterizing individual transactions, such as the number of shares purchased and the price paid. This data is referred to as "single entry" data, in contrast with the "double entry" data (i.e. asset, liability and equity data) that is calculated from it and referred to later in the claim. Additional transaction data entry screens are shown in Figures 7b – 7f and described at page 9, lines 11-18. Although transaction data records may be collected manually through these user interfaces, it may also be obtained directly from the databases of financial institutions (e.g., brokerage databases) in an automated fashion, as shown in Figure 1. (See also p. 9, line 27 – p. 10, line 3.)

receiving user input data representing a request for a financial position report for the investment portfolio;

As shown in Figure 1, a user may request reports from the computer system that performs the claimed method. (See also page 9, lines 27-28)

calculating current double entry asset, liability and equity balances for the investment portfolio as a whole using the transaction data records and current prices for investments held in the investment portfolio, wherein the sum of the portfolio asset balances equals the sum of the portfolio liability balances and the portfolio equity balances, and wherein the liability balances include balances that reflect obligations that would result if all investments of the investment portfolio were liquidated at said current prices;

Current, double entry asset, liability and equity balances are calculated for the investment portfolio as a whole using the aforementioned transaction data records and current prices for the investments (see p. 4, lines 8-11; p. 6, lines 23-25; p. 9, lines 19-22; p. 16, lines 10-12). These balances are dollar quantities such as those shown in the upper portion of the report of Figure 8. These quantities are referred to as "double entry" balances because the value of any asset is offset by the values of related (e.g., margin) or calculated (e.g., tax) liabilities and

equity (net worth), such that the values in each column add up to the same amount (thus demonstrating that all quantities have been accounted for correctly).

The formulas for calculating these balances are provided in Appendices A and B of the application. As stated in the claim and shown in the formulas, current prices (e.g., real time or delayed real time quotes) are used for calculating each balance. This means that the asset balances reflect the value of each investment at current prices, and the liability balances reflect the obligations that would be owed if those assets were liquidated at current prices (e.g., the amount of any taxes that would be owed based on the current value and term of each investment, see Figure 8, 218 (taxes payable)).

generating a financial position report for the portfolio that presents the asset, liability and equity balances of the portfolio in a double entry format, wherein at least some of the asset, liability and equity balances displayed in the financial position report are associated with hyperlinks to corresponding reports supporting the associated balances;

This claim element refers to the generation of a report such as the one shown in Figure 8 using the balances calculated in the previous element. As shown in Figure 8, the asset, liability and equity balances are presented in a two column double entry format. As further shown in Figure 8, balances (gray text) are associated with hyperlinks to detailed reports supporting the balance figure (p. 10, lines 9-15) (it is noted that the claim requires that "at least some" of these balances are hyperlinked to supporting reports).

transmitting the financial position report to the user; and

The report is transmitted to the user's computer where it may be displayed and printed (p. 10, lines 3-6).

in response to receiving user input data representing user selection of one of said hyperlinks associated with one of said balances, transmitting a

report to the user supporting the balance associated with the selected hyperlink.

The user may select any of the hyperlinks in the main report to access an associated detailed report. Figure 8 shows examples of reports that are connected via hyperlinks to the main report. Detailed examples of these reports are listed in the table of reports at pages 10-12 of the application and are included in the drawings. The formulas for calculating the balances in these reports are provided in Appendices A and B.

C. Dependent claims

The application contains dependent claims 72-140 and 153. Claims 72-140 depend from claim 71, and claim 153 depends from claim 152. Their contents are briefly summarized here:

Claims 72-74 specify details of the transaction data used to calculate balances.

Claim 75 specifies that the method further includes receiving transaction data for a hypothetical (i.e., "what-if") transaction, and updating the financial position report of claim 71 after recalculating the report to reflect any changes that would result from the hypothetical transaction.

Claims 76-99 specify balances that may be included among the assets and liabilities of claim 71, and the details of reports that may be hyperlinked to those balances.

Claims 100-102 specify details regarding the current price data used to calculate the balances of claim 71.

Claim 103 specifies that the transaction data used in claim 71 is obtained from a remote sever through the internet.

Claim 104 specifies additional features relating to the generation of a profit and loss section of the report of claim 71.

Claims 105-122 specify balances that may be included among the profit and loss balances of claim 104, and details of reports that may be hyperlinked to those balances.

Claim 123 specifies that profit and loss balances are calculated using real time price data.

Claim 124 specifies that that method further includes receiving transaction data for a hypothetical transaction, and updating the financial position report of claim 104 after recalculating the report to reflect any changes that would result from the hypothetical transaction.

Claim 125 specifies additional features concerning the generation of a performance measure that is included in the report of claim 71.

Claims 126-140 specify particular performance measures and details of reports that may be hyperlinked to those performance measures.

Claim 153 depends from independent claim 152 and recites features concerning profit and loss balances analogous to those of claim 104.

6. Issues on Appeal

Whether the rejection is correct in asserting that the invention as a whole, as recited in independent claims 71 and 152 and each their dependent claims, would have been obvious from the cited art.

7. Grouping of Claims

The following groups of claims stand or fall together:

Claims 71, 103 and 152.

Claims 72-74.

Claim 75.

Claims 76-78.

Claims 79-82.

Claims 83-85.

Claims 86-88.

Claims 89-92.

Claims 93-95.

Claims 96-99.

Claims 100-102.

Claims 104 and 153.

Claims 105-109.

Claims 110-112.

Claims 113-115.

Claims 116-118.

Claims 119-122.

Claim 123.

Claim 124.

Claim 125.

Claims 126-131.

Claims 132-136.

Claims 137-139.

Claim 140.

8. Argument

A. Overview

The rejection fails because the features required by the claims are not found in the cited references and do not follow from the teachings of those references. The claims involve creating specific types of current financial information about an investment portfolio and presenting that information in a specific way. The cited references do not involve providing financial information for an investment portfolio, do not involve creating the types of information required by the claims, and do not teach the specific way of presenting information required by the claims. Although the references involve financial and accounting technologies, and some of their terminology is similar to that of the present application, these similarities are superficial, and an informed reading of the references shows that they lack the features and motivation required to sustain a rejection of the claims.

All claims were rejected as being obvious in view of the combination of Hinkle (U.S. 6,442,533), Lewis (U.S. 2002/0065752), and Reese (U.S. 6,236,980). The main references (Hinkle and Lewis) describe configurable systems that receive financial transaction data and process that data in whatever manner the system configuration dictates. These references do not suggest specific configurations, and do not recognize or address the information needs of the investment portfolio owner or suggests specific solutions for those needs. The Reese reference involves a system that aggregates information from the media about securities (e.g., stocks) and makes that information available to the user. It teaches nothing about providing current financial information for an investment portfolio.

The piecemeal manner in which features are assembled from the references shows that the rejection worked backward from the claims to seek their components in the prior art, rather than working forward from the prior art to

determine whether the things naturally suggested by that art would have included the claimed subject matter as a whole. Moreover, despite this scavenger hunt approach, the rejection must still resort to purposeful vagueness in its analysis of the independent claims because its assertions about the cited art are not backed up by the art itself. In fact, all 70 dependent claims are summarily rejected in a single paragraph that provides no support whatsoever for its blanket conclusion of obviousness (see p. 4 of the rejection).

Applicant respectfully submits that if the claimed invention is truly obvious from the cited art, it would be possible to clearly explain where each element is taught or suggested, and to articulate a logical reason why the claimed combination of those elements would, as a whole, have been motivated by the cited art or the common knowledge in the field. The rejection does neither, and as demonstrated below, this is because the cited art does not allow it to do so.

The following summary of the cited references gives a high-level overview of the references and their basic differences with respect to the claimed subject matter. A detailed comparison of the references to the claim elements is then provided.

Hinkle provides a configurable accounting system that receives financial transaction data as input and uses that input to update tables of static, historical accounting data. Hinkle performs only two types of operations: adding to or subtracting from quantities that already exist in its tables. Hinkle's system is intended to serve as a source of accounting data that can be accessed by other applications. Hinkle does not consider or address the information needs of an investment portfolio owner, and does not provide any teaching concerning specific types of information or reports that could be generated from the information stored in its tables.

Lewis provides a configurable financial information system that acquires financial transaction data and other financial information, and processes that information in accordance with processing rules established by the user. Lewis provides examples in Figures 27 and 28 of reports that the system can generate when specifically configured to do so, however these reports do not concern investment portfolios, do not involve calculation of current asset, liability and net worth values based on current prices, do not use a balance sheet format and do not provide links that enable direct navigation to supporting reports.

Reese provides a system that aggregates stock recommendations from various sources and reports summaries of recommendations for stocks. Reese does not calculate or report financial information for investment portfolios.

The failing of all of the cited references is that none of them considers or addresses the needs of an investment portfolio owner for financial information about the investment portfolio, and so naturally they do not disclose the actual features required by the claims. The combined references provide no inspiration for the claimed invention as a whole, in which information is provided for an investment portfolio by calculating the current net worth, asset and liability balances of the portfolio using current prices, presenting that information in a single integrated report having a balance sheet format, and providing supporting reports that are hyperlinked to those balances. A fair examination of the claims cannot find the claims to be obvious in view of the cited art, as demonstrated by the following detailed argument.

B. Detailed argument against the rejections

1. Claim 71

The following sections examine the allegations made in the rejection of claim 71. The arguments presented here are equally applicable to claim 152.

a. Hinkle

The rejection makes the blanket allegation that the following claim elements are disclosed in Hinkle:

obtaining single entry transaction data records for individual transactions of the investment portfolio;

...

calculating current double entry asset, liability and equity balances for the investment portfolio as a whole using the transaction data records and current prices for investments held in the investment portfolio, wherein the sum of the portfolio asset balances equals the sum of the portfolio liability balances and the portfolio equity balances, and wherein the liability balances include balances that reflect obligations that would result if all investments of the investment portfolio were liquidated at said current prices;

...

generating a financial position report for the portfolio that presents the asset, liability and equity balances of the portfolio in a double entry format, wherein at least some of the asset, liability and equity balances displayed in the financial position report are associated with hyperlinks to corresponding reports supporting the associated balances;

The rejection states that Hinkle does not calculate the aforementioned balances using current (i.e., market) prices.

The rejection does not point out where in Hinkle the aforementioned claim features are allegedly found. Instead, it recites all of the aforementioned claim features verbatim and then refers the applicant generally to the Abstract, Figures 2B, 4D and 9A - 15 (a total of 12 figures), the text at col. 1, lines 45-51 and 58-67, col. 3 lines 17-62, col. 4 line 66 – col. 5 line 5, col. 8 line 35- col. 9 line 45, col. 13 lines 61-67, col. 14 lines 20-46, and claim 1 (see pages 2-3 of the rejection). The refusal to discuss the Hinkle reference or explain its alleged relevance to the claims unfairly burdens the applicant by forcing him to argue the patentability of the claims without any meaningful explanation for the basis for the rejection. In an effort to address this portion of the rejection, applicant provides his own understanding of Hinkle and its shortcomings, and then specifically addresses each of the portions of Hinkle cited in the rejection.

Applicant's understanding of Hinkle

Hinkle's system is a configurable accounting system that receives information about financial transactions as input and uses that information to update tables of static, historical accounting data. Figure 1 provides a high-level illustration of the system. The system receives data 58 representing transactions of a business enterprise. Each transaction is broken into subtransactions 66 that are processed by a subtransaction processing module 64 under the control of a transaction processing controller 52 and a subtransaction scheduler 62. The processing is performed in accordance with reference data 70 and is stored in financial data archives 70. These features are described at col. 6, lines 26-59, and again at col. 10, lines 1-32.

In order to make a meaningful comparison between Hinkle and the claimed invention, it is necessary to understand what a subtransaction is and what occurs when a subtransaction is processed. Hinkle explains that a subtransaction is merely the operation of adding or subtracting one quantity from another to produce a quantity that is then inserted as a new entry in a table. As stated at col. 8, lines 9-26:

In general, each subtransaction conceptually indicates a single operation of either plus or minus that is to be performed with two operands also indicated in the subtransaction. That is, the first operand indicates the data to be added or subtracted from a particular field or column of a table row identified by the second operand. Additionally, each subtransaction updates other tables within the transaction processing system 50 automatically in order to provide consistency among the data tables so that: (a) substantially on-line account balancing capabilities can be performed, and (b) full auditability of the records of the business enterprise providing the transaction can be facilitated by retaining history records of table updates, as will be discussed with reference to "master table transaction cluster processing" described hereinbelow. Accordingly, each subtransaction processed by an instantiation of the subtransaction processing module 64 may update a plurality of the data tables contained in the collectively labeled database 70.
(emphasis added)

As further indicated by Hinkle, the relationship between an input transaction and its corresponding subtransactions is predefined, so that for any given input transaction, the types of subtransactions to be performed are simply retrieved from memory (see col. 10, lines 39-45).

Therefore, when Hinkle "processes" a transaction, the value of the transaction is simply added to or subtracted from one or more values already existing in the tables to create a new entry in one or more of the tables. The end result of this processing is a set of tables that accumulate historical accounting data as new transactions occur, but that are otherwise static in that the values in the tables do not change with changes in market prices or with the passage of time. Such data is contrasted with, for example, the current value of an investment portfolio liability such as unrealized taxes, which continuously changes as a function of the current price of each individual investment and the period of time for which each individual investment has been held.

Hinkle's disclosure describes specific types of accounting tables that may be produced and maintained by his system. Because some of these tables are described using terms that appear to be relevant to the claimed invention, it is important to understand what types of information these tables do and do not contain. These tables are referred to as "driven tables," and types of driven tables supported by the system are listed at col. 14, lines 20-36. For example, Hinkle's driven tables include a "Customer Balance Sheet table [that] contains all assets and liabilities for all customer accounts." (col. 14, lines 25-26). While the present claims also refer to assets and liabilities, it must be remembered that the values specified in the claims are current values that are calculated based on current (market) prices of individual investments. In contrast, the data in Hinkle's balance sheet table is merely historical data that reflects values as of the date when the corresponding transactions occurred. This can be inferred from the fact that subtransactions merely add or subtract the values of a transaction, using only the

data about the transaction itself, and therefore do not perform the valuation calculations (e.g., number of shares times current price) that would be necessary to determine a current value. Direct evidence supporting this inference is found in the balance sheet process flow of Figure 15, the balance sheet table processing pseudocode provided at col. 57-58, and in the balance sheet table data description provided at col. 97-99. The table data description shows that each record in the table simply includes a purchase date, a number of units and their cost, and information about the valuation of the currency used in the transaction as of the transaction date. The pseudocode specifically describes the processing for transactions that add or subtract (e.g. buy or sell) a financial instrument in a portfolio. (See also the description of these operations at col. 9, lines 15-50). Figure 15 is specific to the purchase of a financial instrument. As seen in both Figure 15 and the pseudocode, the only operations performed are inserting and deleting rows, if there is no previous row in the table for the transaction, or changing the number of units owned if there is already a row in the table for the transaction. Hinkle's system does not process transactions in the manner specified by the present claims, or produce the current valuation information specified by the present claims.

Hinkle is notable for what it fails to disclose. Specifically, Hinkle contains no disclosure or suggestion of any type of report generation. As disclosed, Hinkle's system simply accumulates accounting information as transactions occur. Hinkle does not discuss particular types of reporting and does not provide any indication of the manners of presenting investment portfolio information that were known prior to the present invention. Therefore Hinkle cannot be said to motivate the generation of a financial position report for an investment portfolio that presents the current values of asset, liability and equity balances in a double entry format and that provides hyperlinks between those balances and supporting reports.

Portions of Hinkle cited in the official action

Many of the portions of Hinkle cited in the rejection appear to have little relevance to the claims now at issue. The following discussion briefly examines the portions of Hinkle cited in the rejection:

Abstract: Hinkle's Abstract discusses Hinkle's main objective of making transaction processing more efficient through the use of transaction data descriptors that represent subtransactions, allowing complex processing logic to be removed from the executable code, and the ability to process some subtransactions in parallel. Hinkle's abstract is not pertinent to any of the claim features.

col. 1, lines 45-51 and 58-67: These portions of the text express the desirability of a system that is easily modified with respect to the types of transactions processed and the types of reports generated. The text then gives examples of the auditability provided by the invention. There is no discussion of report generation or reports having the features required by the present claims.

col. 3 lines 17-62: This portion of the text describes features of Hinkle's invention that are intended to provide flexibility, customizability and auditability. These features generally involve the types of tables used and the way in which they are maintained. There is no discussion of report generation or reports having the features required by the present claims.

col. 4 line 66 – col. 5 line 5: This text states that the invention may be tailored to process transactions in various manners such as in order or in parallel.

col. 8 line 35- col. 9 line 45: This portion of the text was addressed in applicant's discussion above. This text discusses types of financial transactions that may be input to the system, including transactions involving financial instruments (col. 8 line 64 – col. 9 line 5 and col. 9 lines 15-21). It is then explained that four functions are used for processing transactions in financial instruments: adding (i.e., buying) a financial instrument, deleting (reversing) the addition of a financial instrument, selling a financial instrument, and deleting (reversing) the selling of a financial instrument (col. 9, lines 33-47). This section contains no discussion of report generation.

col. 13 lines 61-67: This text describes a table that uses codes to indicate the transactions in financial instruments that a business enterprise has engaged in (referred to as linking specific transactions to specific entities). There is no discussion of report generation.

col. 14 lines 20-46: This portion of the text was addressed in applicant's discussion above. This text describes tables that aggregate data for all customers of a business enterprise that uses the system. The tables include data concerning assets and liabilities, capital gains and pending income. As discussed above, these tables simply store static historical data, and the tables accumulate new information as new transactions occur. There is nothing to suggest that the tables reflect the current financial position of an investment portfolio that is calculated using current prices and includes liabilities that would occur if all holdings were liquidated at the current prices. There is nothing to suggest that the tables are used to generate reports having a balance sheet format or hyperlinks connecting balances in the report to supporting reports.

Claim 1: Claim 1 describes Hinkle's over-all process as addressed in detail above. There is no discussion of report generation.

Figures: Figures 2B, 4D and 9A - 15 show a great number of features, most of which appear to either be redundant of the text discussed above or not relevant to the present claims.

Figure 2B shows data tables which were described above.

Figure 4D shows the order in which data is added to customer tables.

Figures 9A-9C show details of the processing of a transaction; no calculation of financial information for an investment portfolio is involved.

Figures 10A-10B show the process of scheduling the processing of subtransactions and do not appear to be relevant to the present claims.

Figure 11 shows a process flow for a "process principal cash" operation. This process involves only the addition of quantities to pre-existing data.

Figure 12 shows a process flow for a “process invested income” operation. This process involves only the addition and subtraction of quantities to pre-existing data.

Figure 13 shows a process flow for a “process invested principal” operation. This process involves only the addition and subtraction of quantities to pre-existing data.

Figure 14 shows a decision tree for determining which tables to update when processing a subtransaction affecting income and expenses.

Figure 15 shows a process flow for a “process balance sheet” operation, involving creating table rows, deleting table rows, or incrementing data values.

The cited portions of Hinkle support rather than contradict applicant’s understanding of Hinkle. Hinkle is concerned with receiving transaction data and updating historical accounting tables to reflect the occurrence of those transactions. At best, Hinkle may store some data that could be used as transaction data input for the claimed invention. It is not reasonable to extrapolate the features of the claim from this minor similarity.

b. Lewis

The rejection asserts that the following claim features are taught by Lewis:

receiving user input data representing a request for a financial position report for the investment portfolio;

...

transmitting the financial position report to the user;

The rejection notes that Lewis describes a system in which a user requests a report concerning an investment portfolio, citing paragraphs 36 and 152-154, and that Lewis provides a report in response to the request, citing paragraphs 145 and 151. The rejection further notes that Lewis performs the act of obtaining current prices, citing paragraphs 8 and 13-20. Although these assertions appear to be individually correct, they do little to support a rejection of the claimed subject

matter as a whole because these features occur in a system that otherwise is nothing like the system claimed.

In general terms, the purpose of Lewis is to provide a configurable system for receiving data about financial transactions and other financial data, to store that data, and to perform calculations on that data in a manner that is configured by the user. Lewis describes objects of the system as follows:

[0022] It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to provide a data processing system and platform that provides an integrated, real-time data and information consolidation and distribution solution for financial institutions. ...

[0024] It is yet another object of the present invention to provide a system that consolidates both the incoming data, and the information that the system derives from such incoming data, in a well-defined database that supports multi-report generation in essentially real-time by a wide range of users making use of a wide range of programming languages and higher-level information reporting tools. ...

[0033] It is still another object of the present invention to provide a workstation that allows users to enter and modify business rules that are recorded in database tables and that designate the specific information that is to be derived from each type of incoming transaction, market data record, or customer/counterparty update record; thus allowing more and different information to be created and stored in the database without requiring revision to the production code. ... These business rules permit dynamic instruction of server-based components that contain multi-currency, multi-product, and multi-entity bookkeeping logic; market data cleansing, consolidation and distribution logic; and user/customer/counterparty data collection logic. By manipulating the business rules, the user can tailored *[sic]* the processing performed by, and the information created and stored by the system, as desired by different customer or user segments.

Lewis provides little description of specific types of information to be calculated or types of reports to be generated because Lewis is concerned with providing a configurable system rather than addressing the specific needs of any particular user. Lewis provides a high level diagram of the system (Figure 4), which shows basic components including Source Systems that supply input data, an interface/transformation server 100 that standardizes the format of the input data, an alert notification server 160 that alerts other components to the arrival of new

information, a calculation server 170 that performs calculations on received data, and a reporting engine 190 that generates reports for various user systems 150 (see par. 0036). Lewis briefly lists examples of information that could be calculated (see par. 0127), but these do not include the information specified in claim 71. Lewis also provides two examples of reports that could be generated by the system (see Figures 27 and 28), but these are static reports that do not contain the current investment portfolio financial information required by claim 71 and do not utilize the presentation format or hyperlinking specified by claim 71.

In summary, Lewis discloses a system that is intended to supply financial information for a business enterprise, but does not offer anything specifically addressing the financial information needs of portfolio owners or the solutions set forth in the present claims.

c. Reese

The rejection asserts that the following claim feature is taught by Reese:

in response to receiving user input data representing user selection of one of said hyperlinks associated with one of said balances, transmitting a report to the user supporting the balance associated with the selected hyperlink.

In support of this assertion the rejection cites col. 4, lines 38-40, col. 5, lines 11-31, col. 33, lines 36-59, and col. 63, line 59 – col. 64, line 25. This appears to be a correct characterization of what is found in the reference but it is not suggestive of the claimed subject matter as a whole. While the cited portions explain the concept of hyperlinking between documents, this is done in the context of a system that provides recommendations about securities and provides links to aggregated information about securities from magazines and other media sources (see, e.g., Summary, col. 7, lines 40-49). There is nothing in Reese that is suggestive of the particular use of hyperlinking required in the claims – hyperlinking from a balance displayed in a report as specified by the claim to a supporting report that supports the balance to which it is hyperlinked. More generally, there is

nothing in Reese that relates to providing current financial information about an actual investment portfolio.

d. Differences between the cited art and claims 71 and 152

Claims 71 and 152 describes a specific manner of calculating and presenting investment portfolio information. The cited references describe generic financial information systems that are intended to be configurable rather than directed to specific users or needs. The specific processing of claims 71 and 152 cannot be obvious from the generic systems of the cited references because those systems do not contain elements required by claims 71 and 152 and do not suggest modifications that would result in the adoption of those elements. Even when taken in combination, the references fall short of claims 71 and 152 in several ways:

- they do not calculate the current asset, liability and equity values for a portfolio of investments based on current prices, or suggest such a calculation;
- they do not present such current asset, liability and equity balances in a double entry format, or suggest such a presentation;
- they do not provide supporting reports for such balances, or allow such supporting reports to be accessed through hyperlinks to the corresponding balances, or suggest doing so.

There is no explicit teaching or suggestion of any of these features in any of the references, and so they must come, if at all, from the references implicitly or from the general knowledge in the field. Applicant respectfully submits that there is no support in the record for concluding that all of these missing features are somehow implied from references that do not recognize or address the problems for which those missing elements in combination provide a solution. Certainly, looking at the references together, one is not led to envision an investment portfolio reporting system that presents a user experience as exemplified by Figure 8 of the

application, namely, a reporting system providing current values of assets, liabilities and net worth, in a double-entry format, with supporting reports hyperlinked to those current values.

The rejection has cited no evidence of common knowledge in the field that would motivate the missing features and their use in claimed combination.¹ The invention as a whole cannot be obvious in the absence of inspiration for these features, and the only document in the record that provides that inspiration is the application itself. The invention as a whole of claims 71 and 152 simply does not follow from the art cited against it, and therefore is patentable over the cited references.

2. Dependent claims

The rejection of the dependent claims is difficult to respond to because the 70 dependent claims of the application are rejected in a single paragraph without any reference to any specific claim feature or any teaching in the prior art. The rejection simply states:

With reference to claims 72-140 and 153, Hinkle, Lewis and Reese combined teach the features in these claims or they are old and well known in the art. By adding these features to the invention of Hinkle the users would have benefited from having a complete current financial picture of their investment portfolio and the net-worth of their portfolio after paying all the outstanding obligations. (page 4, final paragraph)

The dependent claims are allowable over the cited references because they depend from independent claims 71 or 152 as reviewed above. In addition,

¹ Concerning the issue of common knowledge, applicant notes the prior art reference entitled "Web's Best Bank & Investment Sites" that was submitted in an Information Disclosure. This reference is a magazine issue devoted to surveying the features of banking and on-line trading systems as of approximately the time that the application was filed. Although this reference does not encompass all possible prior art systems, it provides a good indication of the type of investment portfolio information that was provided by the most widely known systems at that time. No system surveyed in this reference resembles the claimed invention. Applicant submits that this constitutes evidence of the common knowledge in the field and demonstrates that the claimed invention is not simply motivated by common knowledge.

applicant has reviewed all of the cited references in detail and believes that the additional features specified by the dependent claims are not taught or motivated by the cited references. Therefore all dependent claims are allowable on this basis as well.

The following sections briefly address the dependent claims in accordance with the groupings specified above.

a. Claims 72-74

These claims specify details of the transaction data processed by the claimed method. The combinations of features set forth by these claims are not taught in the cited references. With regard to claims 73 and 74, the references do not teach use of transaction data of the specified type.

b. Claim 75

This claim refers to allowing a user to enter transaction data characterizing a hypothetical (i.e. "what if") transaction to see its effects on the current asset, liability and equity values of the portfolio as a whole. None of the cited references teaches a report that recalculates such values in response to a hypothetical transaction

c. Claims 76-78

These claims refer to calculation of a cash balance value as one of the asset balances included in the report, and generation of a supporting report. An example of such a report is provided in Figure 9I of the application. The cited references do not disclose the calculation of this balance or generation of this report.

d. Claims 79-82

These claims refer to calculation of a securities current basis value as one of the asset balances included in the report, and generation of a supporting report. An example of such a report is provided in Figure 9H of the application. The cited references do not disclose the calculation of this balance or generation of this report.

e. Claims 83-85

These claims refer to calculation of a margin borrowed value as one of the liability balances included in the report, and generation of a supporting report. An example of such a report is provided in Figure 9K of the application. The cited references do not disclose the calculation of this balance or generation of this report.

f. Claims 86-88

These claims refer to calculation of a margin interest value as one of the liability balances included in the report, and generation of a supporting margin interest payable report. The cited references do not disclose the calculation of this balance or generation of this report.

g. Claims 89-92

These claims refer to calculation of a taxes payable value as one of the liability balances included in the report, and generation of a supporting report. Taxes payable refers to taxes that would have to be paid on all investments if sold at current prices, as well as tax payments already due because of previous sales (or closings). An example of such a report is provided in Figure 9S of the application. The cited references do not disclose the calculation of this balance or generation of this report.

h. Claims 93-95

These claims refer to calculation of a cash invested value as one of the equity balances included in the report, and generation of a supporting cash invested report. An example of such a report is provided in Figure 9J of the application. The cited references do not disclose the calculation of this balance or generation of this report.

i. Claims 96-99

These claims refer to calculation of a net worth value as one of the equity balances included in the report, and generation of a supporting net worth report. An example of such a report is provided in Figure 9U of the application. The cited

references do not disclose the calculation of this balance or generation of this report.

j. Claims 100-102

These claims specify that real time price data is used to calculate values in the report, and that current price information is obtained in response to a user request for the financial position report. The combined references do not teach the use of these features in conjunction with the features of the independent claims.

k. Claims 104 and 153

These claims depend directly from independent claims 71 and 152, and specify the production of an income statement for an investment portfolio as a whole, including calculation of revenue and expense balances for the portfolio as a whole and generation of revenue and expense reports hyperlinked to the corresponding balance. The income statement portion of the financial position report is shown at the bottom of the report of Figure 8, as well as in the bottom portions of Figures 9V-1, 9V-2 and 9V-3. The cited references do not disclose the use of these features in conjunction with those of the independent claims.

l. Claims 105-109

These claims refer to calculating gains and losses values as part of the income statement, and generating supporting reports showing balances such as gross gains and losses, net gains and losses, bought value, and realized and unrealized value, as part of the revenue balance of a profit and loss report. Gross gains and losses are gains and losses before subtracting expenses such as commissions and costs, while net gains and losses are gains and losses once expenses such as commissions and costs have been subtracted. Examples of such reports are provided in Figures 9N-1, 9N-2, 9N-3 and 9N-4 of the application. The cited references do not disclose the calculation of these balance or generation of these reports.

m. Claims 110-112

These claims refer to calculating a dividends and interest value as part of the income statement, and generating a supporting report. An example of such a report is provided in Figure 9E of the application. The cited references do not disclose the calculation of this balance or generation of this report.

n. Claims 113-115

These claims refer to calculating a commissions and costs value as part of the income statement, and generating a supporting report. The cited references do not disclose the calculation of this balance or generation of this report.

o. Claims 116-118

These claims refer to calculating a margin interest value as part of the income statement, and generating a supporting report. An example of such a report is provided in Figure 9M of the application. The cited references do not disclose the calculation of this balance or generation of this report.

p. Claims 119-122

These claims refer to calculating state and federal tax values as part of the income statement, and generating a supporting state and federal tax report that includes both short term and long term tax expenses for both realized and unrealized gains. An example of such a report is provided in Figure 9R of the application. The cited references do not disclose the calculation of this balance or generation of this report.

q. Claim 123

This claim refers to calculating the balances of claim 104 using real time price data to determine real time profit and loss activity. The cited references do not teach calculation of these balances with real time price data.

r. Claim 124

This claim refers to allowing a user to enter transaction data characterizing a hypothetical transaction to see its effects on the asset, liability and equity balances. None of the cited references teaches a report that recalculates such values in response to a hypothetical transaction

s. Claims 125 and 140

These claims refer to calculating a performance measure that provides a rate of return that takes into account the holding period for individual securities, and generating a report supporting the performance measure. The cited references do not disclose the calculation of this value or generation of this report.

t. Claims 126-131

These claims refer to calculating a return on securities value and generating reports supporting the return on securities. The cited references do not disclose the calculation of these values or generation of these reports.

u. Claims 132-136

These claims refer to calculating a cash return on securities performance measure and generating a report supporting that value. Examples of such a report are provided in Figures 9P-1 and 9P-2. The cited references do not disclose the calculation of this value or generation of this report.

v. Claims 137-139

These claims specify that the current price information used for generating a financial position report is obtained in response to a user request for the financial position report. The cited references do not disclose the generation of the report claimed using current price information or obtaining such information in response to a user request for the report.

w. Conclusion regarding dependent claims

The dependent claims describe a wide range of diverse features that are not found in the cited references and are not addressed in the official action. They are allowable based on the features of the independent claims and based on their own features.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, applicant requests the Board of Appeals to overturn all prior art rejections.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: *28 September 04*

By *Ronald Coslick*

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APPENDIX

The following shows the present status of all claims:

Claims 1-70 (Canceled)

71. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a financial position report for an investment portfolio, comprising:

obtaining single entry transaction data records for individual transactions of the investment portfolio;

receiving a request for a financial position report for the investment portfolio;

calculating current double entry asset, liability and equity balances for the investment portfolio as a whole using the transaction data records and current prices for investments held in the investment portfolio, wherein the sum of the portfolio asset balances equals the sum of the portfolio liability balances and the portfolio equity balances, and wherein the liability balances include balances that reflect obligations that would result if all investments of the investment portfolio were liquidated at said current prices;

generating a financial position report for the portfolio that presents the asset, liability and equity balances of the portfolio in a double entry format;

presenting the financial position report, wherein asset, liability and equity balances displayed in the financial position report are associated with hyperlinks to corresponding reports supporting the respective balances; and

in response to user selection of one of said hyperlinks associated with one of said balances, presenting a report supporting the balance associated with the selected hyperlink.

72. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 71, wherein a transaction data record comprises a date, an identifier of a security, a number of shares, a transaction price, and a transaction type.

73. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 72, wherein the transaction data record further comprises a cash disbursed amount.

74. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 73, wherein the transaction data record further comprises a margin borrowed amount.

75. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 71, further comprising:
receiving transaction data characterizing a hypothetical what-if transaction;
recalculating said asset, liability and equity balances for the portfolio using said transaction data records and said what-if transaction data; and
presenting said financial position report using said recalculated asset, liability and equity balances.

76. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 71, wherein the asset balances include a cash balance.

77. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 76, wherein the cash balance is associated with a hyperlink to a cash balance report.

78. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 77, wherein the cash balance report describes cash transactions of the portfolio and a cash balance remaining after each of said cash transactions.

79. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 71, wherein the asset balances include a securities current basis balance.

80. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 79, wherein the securities current basis balance is associated with a hyperlink to a portfolio status report.

81. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 80, wherein the portfolio status report includes current value and gain and loss data for securities currently held in the portfolio.

82. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 81, wherein the current value and gain and loss data are calculated using real time price data.

83. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 71, wherein the liability balances include a margin borrowed balance.

84. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 83, wherein the margin borrowed balance is associated with a hyperlink to a margin borrowed balance report.

85. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 84, wherein the margin borrowed balance report describes margin transactions of the portfolio and a margin borrowed balance remaining after each of said margin transactions.

86. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 71, wherein the liability balances include a margin interest balance.

87. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 86, wherein the margin interest balance is associated with a hyperlink to a margin interest payable report.

88. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 87, wherein the margin interest payable report describes margin interest transactions of the portfolio and a margin interest balance remaining after each of said margin interest transactions.

89. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 71, wherein the liability balances include a taxes payable balance.

90. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 89, wherein the taxes payable balance is associated with a hyperlink to a taxes payable report that displays short-term and long-term realized and unrealized gains and losses for securities currently held in the portfolio, short-term and long-term taxes payable for realized and unrealized gains and losses for said securities, and short-term and long-term taxes paid for realized gains and losses of said securities.

91. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 90, wherein the unrealized gains and losses and the short-term and long-term taxes payable for said realized and unrealized gains and losses are calculated using real time price data.

92. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 91, wherein the taxes payable include federal and state taxes that are calculated in accordance with user defined tax rates.

93. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 71, wherein the equity balances include a cash invested balance.

94. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 93, wherein the cash invested balance is associated with a hyperlink to a cash invested report.

95. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 94, wherein the cash invested report describes cash invested transactions of the portfolio and a cash invested balance remaining after each of said cash invested transactions.

96. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 71, wherein the equity balances include a net worth balance.

97. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 96, wherein the net worth balance is associated with a hyperlink to a net worth report.

98. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 97, wherein the net worth report includes gains and losses for securities of the portfolio, said gains and losses accounting for commissions, margin interest, and taxes.

99. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 98, wherein said gains and losses include unrealized gains and losses for securities currently held in the portfolio that are calculated using real time price data to provide real time unrealized gains and losses.

100. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 71, wherein the balances are calculated using real time price data to provide a real time financial position report.

101. (Previously Amended) The method claimed in claim 71, wherein said current prices are obtained in response to said request from a user for the financial position report.

102. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 101, wherein the request is received through the Internet.

103. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 71, wherein the transaction data records are accessed from a remote server through the Internet.

104. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 71, further comprising:
calculating revenue and expense balances for the investment portfolio as a whole during a period of time using the transaction data records, wherein the sum of the revenue balances less the sum of the expense balances equals the net worth after taxes of the portfolio as a whole during said period of time;

wherein said financial position report further comprises a profit and loss section presenting said revenue and expense balances and said net worth after taxes for said period of time,

wherein revenue and expense balances of the profit and loss section are associated with hyperlinks to corresponding reports supporting the respective balances, and

wherein said processing further comprises, in response to user selection of one of said hyperlinks associated with one of said revenue and expense balances, presenting a report supporting the balance associated with the selected hyperlink..

105. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 104, wherein the revenue balances include a gains and losses balance.

106. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 105, wherein the gains and losses balance is associated with a hyperlink to a gains and losses balance report.

107. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 106, wherein the gains and losses balance report presents gross gains and losses excluding commissions and costs.

108. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 106, wherein gains and losses balance report presents net gains and losses including commissions and costs.

109. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 106, wherein the said gains and losses balance report includes bought value and realized and unrealized gains and losses of the portfolio.

110. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 104, wherein said revenue balances include a dividends and interest balance.

111. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 110, wherein said dividends and interest balance is associated with a hyperlink to a dividends and interest balance report.

112. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 111, wherein the dividends and interest balance report describes dividend and interest transactions of the portfolio during said period and a dividends and interest balance remaining after each of said dividend and interest transactions.

113. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 104, wherein said expenses balances include a commissions and costs balance.

114. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 113, wherein said commissions and costs balance is associated with a hyperlink to a commissions and costs balance report.

115. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 114, wherein the commissions and costs balance report describes commission and cost transactions of the portfolio during said period and a commissions and costs balance remaining after each of said commission and cost transactions.

116. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 104, wherein said expenses balances include a margin interest balance.

117. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 116, wherein said margin interest balance is associated with a hyperlink to a margin interest balance report.

118. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 117, wherein the margin interest balance report describes margin interest transactions of the portfolio during said period and a margin interest balance remaining after each of said margin interest transactions.

119. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 104, wherein said expense balances include a state and federal taxes balance.

120. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 119, wherein said state and federal taxes balance is associated with a hyperlink to a tax expenses report that displays short-term and long-term realized and unrealized gains and losses, and short-term and long-term tax expenses for said realized and unrealized gains and losses.

121. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 120, wherein said unrealized gains and losses and said short-term and long-term tax expenses for said realized and unrealized gains and losses are calculated using real time price data to provide real time unrealized gains and losses and real time short-term and long-term tax expenses for said realized and unrealized gains and losses.

122. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 120, wherein said tax expenses include federal and state taxes that are calculated in accordance with user defined tax rates.

123. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 104, wherein said balances are calculated using real time price data to provide a real time profit and loss activity report.

124. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 104, further comprising:
receiving transaction data characterizing a hypothetical what-if transaction;
recalculating said asset, liability and equity balances, said revenue and expense balances, and said net worth after taxes for the portfolio using said transaction data records and said what-if transaction data; and

presenting said financial position report using said recalculated asset, liability and equity balances, said recalculated revenue and expense balances, and said recalculated net worth after taxes.

125. (Previously Amended) The method claimed in claim 71, further comprising:
calculating a performance measure indicating a rate of return for the portfolio as a whole that accounts for holding periods of individual securities currently or previously held in the portfolio using said transaction data records; and
generating a report supporting said performance measure,
wherein said financial position report further comprises said performance measure,
and

wherein said performance measure is associated with a hyperlink to a corresponding report supporting the performance measure.

126. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 125, wherein the performance measure is a return on securities associated with a hyperlink to a return on securities report.

127. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 126, wherein the return on securities report presents gross gains and losses and gross return on investments excluding commissions and costs.

128. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 126, wherein the return on securities report presents net gains and losses and net return on investments including commissions and costs.

129. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 126, wherein the return on securities report includes months held, gains and losses and return on investment on a monthly and annual basis.

130. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 129, wherein the return on securities report includes individual investments.

131. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 130, wherein the said return on securities report includes the overall portfolio.

132. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 125, wherein the performance measure is a cash return on securities associated with a hyperlink to a cash return on securities report that presents a return on cash invested.

133. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 132, wherein the cash return on securities report presents gross gains and losses and gross return on investments excluding commissions and costs.

134. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 132, wherein the cash return on securities report presents net gains and losses and net return on investments including commissions and costs.

135. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 132, wherein the cash return on securities report includes months held, gains and losses, and return on investments on a monthly and annual basis.

136. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 135, wherein the return on securities report includes the overall portfolio.

137. (Previously Amended) The method claimed in claim 125, wherein said current prices are obtained in response to a request from a user for the performance report.

138. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 137, wherein said request specifies a period of time for the performance report.

139. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 137, wherein said request is received through the Internet.

140. (Previously added) The method claimed in claim 125, wherein said transaction data records are accessed from a remote server through the Internet.

Claims 141-151 (Canceled).

152. (Previously Added) A programmable device for reporting financial information for an investment portfolio, the device including computer readable media storing programming code for controlling the device to perform processing comprising:

obtaining single entry transaction data records for individual transactions of the investment portfolio;

receiving a request for a financial position report for the investment portfolio;

calculating current double entry asset, liability and equity balances for the investment portfolio as a whole using the transaction data records and current prices for investments held in the investment portfolio, wherein the sum of the portfolio asset balances equals the sum of the portfolio liability balances and the portfolio equity balances, and wherein the liability balances include balances that reflect obligations that would result if all investments of the investment portfolio were liquidated at said current prices;

generating a financial position report for the portfolio that presents the asset, liability and equity balances of the portfolio in a double entry format;

presenting the financial position report, wherein asset, liability and equity balances displayed in the financial position report are associated with hyperlinks to corresponding reports supporting the respective balances; and

in response to user selection of one of said hyperlinks associated with one of said balances, presenting a report supporting the balance associated with the selected hyperlink.

153. (Previously Added) The device claimed in claim 152, wherein said processing further comprises:

calculating revenue and expense balances for the investment portfolio as a whole during a period of time using the transaction data records, wherein the sum of the revenue balances less the sum of the expense balances equals the net worth after taxes of the portfolio as a whole during said period of time;

wherein said financial position report further comprises a profit and loss section presenting said revenue and expense balances and said net worth after taxes for said period of time,

wherein revenue and expense balances of the profit and loss section are associated with hyperlinks to corresponding reports supporting the respective balances, and

wherein said processing further comprises, in response to user selection of one of said hyperlinks associated with one of said revenue and expense balances, presenting a report supporting the balance associated with the selected hyperlink.